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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

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U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INFORMATION

(Release on receipt)

SUBJECT: "Denier Counts Too". Information from clothing specialists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

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"The gauge doesn't work!

Is that what you say when you buy a pair of rayon hose labeled 51 gauge and they turn out to be service weight?

Then you'll be interested in this explanation from clothing specialists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The gauge is working all right. But you need to check more than the gauge when you look for sheer rayon hose.

Gauge means the fineness of the knitting. In full-fashioned rayon hose.... the cord gauge means the number of needles to each inch and a half on the needle bar. And when the gauge is high...the mesh or wales are more closely or finely knit than when the gauge is low.

But sheerness in a stocking doesn't depend on the gauge alone. It also depends on the denier (den-yer)...that's the weight of the yarn. The word "denier" comes from the name of an old French coin.

In the modern textile world...one denier means the weight in grams of a specified length of rayon yarn. And that means...a fine rayon will have a low denier. As you'd expect...fifty denier rayon is twice as fine as 100 denier rayon.

So...when you look for sheer rayon hose...check two things...the gauge and the denier. Look for a high gauge and a low denier.

